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HB 5747 "An Act Concerning Bonding to Benefit Redemption Song, Inc."

The South Central CT Substance Abuse Council (SCCSAC) is one of thirteen Regional Action Councils established by the CT Legislature to assess substance abuse treatment; intervention and prevention needs of the CT sub region 2A encompassing nine towns from Meriden to Guilford. Over the past 20 years the Council has worked with Wallingford and surrounding communities to develop community responses to substance abuse and addictive behaviors that undermine the health and welfare of our community.

Redemption Song dba the dry dock has provided a consistent service to the region that is unlike any other available service by providing community-based access to supportive services and crisis intervention as well as a safe and sober environment open to the public. In just a few short years, dry dock has become an integral part of all discussions concerning substance abuse and recovery in this area.

The funding that is being sought will allow the dry dock to expand needed services for families whose parent or parents are newly clean and sober. Addiction separates families, destroys relationships and places children at-risk for neglect, delinquency and future destructive behaviors themselves. By providing services to the family in a transitional living situation the entire family has a chance to move forward in a healthy and supportive environment.

The concept of supportive family housing is not available in the region, nor am I aware of a similar service that focuses on the entire family, not just the "designated addict." Addiction destroys families, not just one person. Rather than alienate the individual who is struggling to stay clean and sober, the program will allow the entire family to address the recovery process, keeping families together

I heartily endorse the application by Redemption Song to receive funding that will allow them to provide transitional living services for families, a service that is long overdue and much needed in the State of Connecticut.

Thank you
Marlene F. McGann, MSCJ